



December 23, 2009

Dear Healthcare Professional:

The proper reprocessing of medical devices is a key component to ensuring patient and staff safety. Given the FDA's recent notice and recommendations about the STERIS System 1, we wanted to make you aware of two device sterilization alternatives for Olympus medical devices available to you and your organization – autoclavable products and products compatible with hydrogen peroxide gas vapor (STERRAD).

Steam sterilization is the most prevalent method for device sterilization and more cost-effective than the 'per cycle' cost of alternatives. Olympus offers a range of autoclavable products, including Rod Lens Telescopes, HD Camera Heads, Videolaparoscopes, and the world's first autoclavable flexible Bronchoscope.

For devices that are heat labile (e.g., most flexible endoscopes), an alternative to STERIS System 1 is the STERRAD® NX Sterilization System manufactured by Advanced Sterilization Products (ASP). This system offers healthcare facilities a viable option for low-temperature sterilization of heat-labile endoscopes, that traditionally have been sterilized using ethylene oxide gas or liquid chemical sterilization. Olympus offers several flexible endoscopes that are proven compatible with the STERRAD® NX Sterilization System. Contact Olympus for information on upgrading current Olympus endoscope models to be compatible with STERRAD NX.

We look forward to partnering with you to meet your reprocessing needs as you work to ensure the safety of your patients and staff. Please contact your local Olympus representative at 800-848-9024 or visit www.olympusamerica.com for more information on reprocessing alternatives to STERIS System 1.

Sincerely,

Erdogan Okatan
Executive Director of Marketing
Surgical Imaging